

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE LENS LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LEE RAPKIN and JOHN DOE dba “THE
Exposer” www.youtube.com/@1aAudits
Exposé,

Defendants.

Case No. 25-cv-06048-NC

**STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Hon. Nathanael Cousins

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1. **PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

2 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of
 3 confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
 4 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be
 5 warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the
 6 following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not
 7 confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the
 8 protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information
 9 or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The
 10 parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated
 11 Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil
 12 Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will
 13 be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

14.2. **DEFINITIONS**

15.2.1 **Challenging Party**: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of
 16 information or items under this Order.

17.2.2 **“CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items**: information (regardless of how it
 18 is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under
 19 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).

20.2.3 **Counsel (without qualifier)**: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel
 21 (as well as their support staff).

22.2.4 **Designating Party**: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items
 23 that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

24.2.5 **Disclosure or Discovery Material**: all items or information, regardless of the
 25 medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other
 26 things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in
 27 disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

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1 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
 2 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an
 3 expert witness or as a consultant in this action.

4 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House
 5 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

6 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other
 7 legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

8 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this
 9 action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this
 10 action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf
 11 of that party.

12 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors,
 13 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support
 14 staffs).

15 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery
 16 Material in this action.

17 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
 18 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
 19 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and
 20 their employees and subcontractors.

21 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated
 22 as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

23 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from
 24 a Producing Party.

25 3. SCOPE

26 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected
 27 Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from
 28 Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected

1 Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel
 2 that might reveal Protected Material. However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation
 3 and Order do not cover the following information: (a) any information that is in the public
 4 domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain
 5 after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation
 6 of this Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or otherwise; and
 7 (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the
 8 Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully
 9 and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected
 10 Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

11 4. **DURATION**

12 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed
 13 by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing
 14 or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1)
 15 dismissal of all claims and defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final
 16 judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands,
 17 trials, or reviews of this action, including the time limits for filing any motions or
 18 applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

19 5. **DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

20 5.1 **Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.** Each
 21 Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order
 22 must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the
 23 appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts
 24 of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify – so that other
 25 portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not
 26 warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

27 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that
 28 are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g.,

1 to unnecessarily encumber or retard the case development process or to impose
 2 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the Designating Party to
 3 sanctions.

4 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
 5 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
 6 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

7 **5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise provided in this
 8 Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
 9 ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order
 10 must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

11 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

12 (a) For information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents,
 13 but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the
 14 Producing Party affix the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains protected
 15 material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
 16 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
 17 appropriate markings in the margins).

18 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for
 19 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has
 20 indicated which material it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
 21 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed
 22 "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants
 23 copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions
 24 thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified
 25 documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL" legend to each page
 26 that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
 27 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
 28 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all protected testimony.

(c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date

1 of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its
 2 belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the Designating
 3 Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances,
 4 and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation.
 5 A Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of the challenge process only if it has
 6 engaged in this meet and confer process first or establishes that the Designating Party is
 7 unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in a timely manner.

8 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 9 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality
 10 under Civil Local Rule 7 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 79-5, if applicable)
 11 within 21 days of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing
 12 that the meet and confer process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each
 13 such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant
 14 has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph.
 15 Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including the required declaration
 16 within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality
 17 designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may file a
 18 motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is good cause for doing
 19 so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript or any portions
 20 thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a
 21 competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer
 22 requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

23 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the
 24 Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
 25 harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
 26 Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality
 27 designation by failing to file a motion to retain confidentiality as described above, all
 28 parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it

1 is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the challenge.

2 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

3 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
4 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only
5 for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material
6 may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in
7 this Order. When the litigation has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with
8 the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

9 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location
10 and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under
11 this Order.

12 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise
13 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party
14 may disclose any information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

15 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as
16 employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to
17 disclose the information for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
18 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

19 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
20 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who
21 have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

22 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
23 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the
24 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

25 (d) the court and its personnel;

26 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock
27 jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
28 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”

1 (Exhibit A);

2 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
 3 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
 4 Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the
 5 court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal
 6 Protected Material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed
 7 to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order.

8 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
 9 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

10 8. **PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN**
 11 **OTHER LITIGATION**

12 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
 13 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
 14 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

15 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
 16 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

17 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 18 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order
 19 is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated
 20 Protective Order; and

21 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
 22 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

23 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the
 24 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
 25 “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order
 26 issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating
 27 Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its
 28 confidential material – and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing

1 or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another
 2 court.

3 **9. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN**
 4 **THIS LITIGATION**

5 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-
 6 Party in this action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information produced by
 7 Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief
 8 provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a
 9 Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

10 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
 11 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject
 12 to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential
 13 information, then the Party shall:

14 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
 15 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with
 16 a Non-Party;

17 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
 18 Protective Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
 19 specific description of the information requested; and

20 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-
 21 Party.

22 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court
 23 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
 24 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request.
 25 If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any
 26 information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with
 27 the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the
 28 Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its

1 Protected Material.

2 10. **UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

3 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
 4 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
 5 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the
 6 Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all
 7 unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom
 8 unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such
 9 person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is
 10 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11 11. **INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**
 12 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

13 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently
 14 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of
 15 the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B).
 16 This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-
 17 discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to
 18 Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the
 19 effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client
 20 privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the
 21 stipulated protective order submitted to the court.

22 12. **MISCELLANEOUS**

23 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person
 24 to seek its modification by the court in the future.

25 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective
 26 Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or
 27 producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated
 28 Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in

1 evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

2 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating
3 Party or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may
4 not file in the public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file
5 under seal any Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected
6 Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of
7 the specific Protected Material at issue. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5, a sealing order
8 will issue only upon a request establishing that the Protected Material at issue is privileged,
9 protectable as a trade secret, or otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a
10 Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule
11 79-5 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public
12 record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5 unless otherwise instructed by the court.

13. **FINAL DISPOSITION**

14 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4,
15 each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy
16 such material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies,
17 abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of
18 the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the
19 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the
20 same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60-day deadline that (1) identifies
21 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed
22 and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts,
23 compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
24 Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of
25 all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda,
26 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and
27 consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any
28 such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this

1 Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

2 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

3

4 Dated: January 5, 2026

5 By: /s/Randall S. Newman¹
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15 Dated: January 5, 2026

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PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated:

HON. NATHANAEL COUSINS,
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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¹ E-signature by permission granted January 5, 2026.

EXHIBIT A**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on [date] in the case of *Executive Lens LLC v. Lee Rapkin, et al* (Case No. 5:25-cv-06048-NC). I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____